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APSA REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
Armed Forces Day - May 16, 1970

To supply quality ammunition to U. S. fighting men where they need it, when they need it - that's the job of the Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency (APSA), commanded by Col. Peter G. Olenchuk.

To support its worldwide supply mission, APSA directs the operation of twenty-five (25) government-owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) ammunition plants strategically located across the nation. These plants are distributed from Burlington, N. J. to Riverbank, Calif. and from Minneapolis, Minn. to Shreveport, La. and Marshall, Texas. APSA headquarters is located on Joliet AAP, one of the plants under its jurisdiction.

In addition to directing the operations of this vast industrial plant complex, APSA buys metal parts and components such as projectiles and fuzes from private industry. These are part of the "raw materials" used by its ammunition loading plants. At these plants, metal parts are combined with the explosives and propellants produced at the APSA manufacturing plants. Loaded, assembled and packed, they come off the lines as ammunition items ready for shipment to depots or troops in the field.

Summarized, APSA's mission is to operate the Army's National Inventory Control Point (NICP) and National Maintenance Point (NMP); to manage manufacturing, and load, assemble and pack plants, and to perform procurement, industrial readiness and quality assurance functions in support of the plants. The replacement value of the 25 plants is about $4.7 billion.

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By type, six of the plants are metal parts production facilities; one loads small arms ammunition and produces metal parts; seven produce propellants and explosives; ten load, assemble and pack ammunition, and one, Joliet AAP, is unique in that it manufactures explosives such as TNT and also loads ammunition.

Back in 1965, eleven APSA plants were active, 13 inactive. The ammunition program relating to plant support amounted to $500 million. About mid-1965, the contractor-operators of the plants employed about 17,400. Military and civil service personnel at the plants totaled about 925. Joliet AAP had one military and two civil service personnel while Uniroyal, the contractor-operator, employed some 200 people. Eighty military and about 1700 civilians staffed the APSA headquarters.

In late summer of 1966, nine of the 13 inactive plants had been reactivated. All were producing within six to nine months after start-up. Contractor employment at Joliet AAP had jumped to 2,200 by June, 1966.

Contractor employment in the nationwide APSA industrial complex peaked at 121,000 about January 31, 1969. In fiscal year 1969, the overall APSA dollar program reached $3.7 billion. APSA headquarters personnel peaked in 1967 with 110 military and 2,360 civilians.

With declining ammunition requirements, contractor employment has dropped to about 82,000. As of March 31, 1970, 92 military and 2,200 civilians are employed at APSA headquarters. April 30 found Joliet AAP with five military, some 150 civil service employees and 6,200 contractor personnel.

St. Louis (Mo.) AAP, a producer of 105mm projectiles, has been de-activated and Hays Army Ammunition Activity, Pittsburgh, Pa., another 105mm projectile producer, is slated for de-activation.

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What of the future demands on the plants? No one can predict at APSA. World developments hold the answer.

Meanwhile, APSA has launched a far-reaching modernization program designed to control pollution problems and make sure that its plants, many of which have operated during three wars, are ready in the future to supply ammunition as they have in the past to the nation's fighting men when and where they need it.

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